1990, the number of persons killed in the incidents at Ayodhya on the 30th October, 1990 and 2nd November, 1990 was 16, and the number of persons injured was 198, including 46 policemen.

देश में व्यापक और विस्तृत टेलीफोन नेटवर्क

1438. डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने 1994 तक देश में एक व्यापक और विस्तृत टेलीफोन नेटवर्क स्थापित करने का निर्णय किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि इस नेटवर्क को स्थापित करने के लिए भारी मात्रा में आर्थिक संसाधनों की आवश्यकता पड़ेगी ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि इस योजना हेतु धन जुटाने के लिए सरकार को निजी क्षेत्र के सहयोग पर आश्रित होना पड़ेगा ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इस हेतु निजी क्षेत्र से वित्तीय सहयोग प्राप्त करने के लिए कोई योजना तैयार की है ; यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

संचार मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री पी०वी० रंगैया नायडू) : (क) से (घ) दूरसंचार विभाग ने 1990-95 की अवधि के लिए पंचवर्षीय योजना का एक मसौदा तैयार किया है जिसमें योजना अवधि के अन्त तक देश में टेलीफोन सेवाओं की उपलब्धता तथा उन्हें दूर-दराज के क्षेत्रों में सुलभ कराने पर बल दिया गया है । इस कार्यक्रम पर 19,700 करोड़ रुपए (1990 की कीमत) का परिव्यय होने की संभावना है । इसकी अधिकांश अपेक्षाओं को आन्तरिक संसाधन जुटाकर पूरा किया जाएगा और 7-10 प्रतिशत की वर्तमान अनुमानित कमी को बाजार ऋण के माध्यम से पूरा किया जाएगा ।

Discontentment among Buddhists in J & K

1439. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is great discontentment among the Buddhists of Ladhakh in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that a tri-partite meeting of the representatives of the Central Government, Jammu and Kashmir Government and Ladakh Buddhist Association was held in October, 1989;

(d) whether a general agreement was reached at the said meeting; if so the details thereof;

(e) whether any follow-up action was taken in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what steps Government have taken so far and propose to take to remove their dissatisfaction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (f) The Ladakh Buddhist Association has been agitating for Union Territory status and other developmental matters. On 29-10-89, a tripartite agreement was signed whereby Ladakh Buddhist Association agreed to withdraw the agitation and drop its demand for Union Territory status. It was further agreed that various outstanding issues including demand of autonomous District Hill Council would be discussed and a satisfactory and mutually acceptable solution found to the problems.

Subsequently, a meeting was held with the representatives of Ladakh Buddhist Association on 10.1.90 at Jammu. The

representatives of Ladakh Buddhist Association were not prepared to discuss any other issue other than the setting up of the Hill District Council. It was, however, impressed upon them to discuss developmental and administrative issues. But they insisted only on acceptance of Hill District Council status. The Governor, Jammu & Kashmir met the representatives at Srinagar and assured the representatives of Ladakh Buddhist Association of sympathetic support to their district cultural identity. As regard their other political demands, the representatives of Ladakh Buddhist Association have been assured that these issues wil be taken up after the situation in the Kashmir Valley is brought under control and political process in the State starts.

Indo-South Africa relations

1440. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of South Africa have taken major steps to end aparthied; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review relations with that Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. The South African Government has, besides unbanning anti-apartheid organisations and releasing prominent political prisoners, repealed all apartheid legislation. However, further steps have to be taken before progress towards a non-racial and democratic South Africa can be certified as "irreversible".

(b) The Indian Government is monitoring the developments in South Africa very closely. For the moment, there is no change in our policy towards South Africa. A decision to review relations with South Africa will be taken after we are convinced that the process of dismantling apartheid has become irreversible.

Restricutring of North Eastern Council

1441. SHRI KHYOMO LOTHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restructure the North-Eastern Council;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to include Members of Parliament from the North-East States in the Council so that the Members of Parliament may also play their role effectively in the process of development of that region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) No decision has been taken to restructure the North Eastern Council.

Release of Funds to States under Central Road Fund

1442. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount made available to the States from the Central Road Fund for road development during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what is the annual share of Maharashtra fixed for release from the Central Road Fund and whether Maharashtra is getting its share since October, 1988 onwards; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A statement is enclosed.